Amendments to the Claims

This Listing of Claims would replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1 - 91. (Canceled)

92. (Previously Presented) A method of maintaining catalytic activity of an activated SAPO molecular sieve, comprising:

(a) providing a SAPO molecular sieve in a production-to-use procedure, wherein the molecular sieve is protected from moisture by shielding catalytic sites within the molecular sieve by means of a shield selected from the group consisting of a template, an anhydrous liquid and an anhydrous gas;

(b) removing the shield to form an activated molecular sieve; and

(c) maintaining the molecular sieve at a temperature of at least 150°C, with no shield, and at a methanol uptake index that does not drop below 0.15 before use of said molecular sieve in a catalytic process.

93. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 92, wherein the shield is a template.

94. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 93, wherein the shield is a template and the SAPO molecular sieve is stored in wet filter cake form.

95. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 92, wherein the SAPO molecular sieve, in its unshielded form, is maintained at a temperature of from 150 to 800°C.

96. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 95, wherein the SAPO molecular sieve, in its unshielded form, is maintained at a temperature of from 175 to 600°C.

97. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 96, wherein the SAPO molecular sieve, in its unshielded form, is maintained at a temperature of from 200 to 500°C.

98. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 92, wherein the SAPO molecular sieve, in its unshielded form, is maintained at a methanol uptake index that does not fall below 0.4.

99. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 98, wherein the SAPO molecular sieve, in its unshielded form, is maintained at a methanol uptake index that does not fall below 0.6.

100. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 99, wherein the SAPO molecular sieve, in its unshielded form, is maintained at a methanol uptake index that does not fall below 0.8.

101. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 92, wherein the SAPO molecular sieve, in its unshielded form, is maintained in a reactor, regenerator or storage environment.

102. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 92, wherein the SAPO molecular sieve comprises molecular sieve selected from the group consisting of SAPO-17, SAPO-18, SAPO-34, SAPO-35, SAPO-44, SAPO-47, SAPO-56, metal containing forms thereof, and mixtures thereof.

103. (Previously Presented) A method of maintaining catalytic activity of an activated SAPO molecular sieve, the method comprising:

(a) providing a SAPO molecular sieve, wherein the molecular sieve is protected from moisture by shielding catalytic sites within the molecular sieve;

(b) removing the shield to form an activated molecular sieve;

(c) loading the activated SAPO molecular sieve into a storage environment; and

(d) maintaining the molecular sieve at a temperature of at least 150°C, with no shield, and at a methanol uptake index that does not drop below 0.15 before use of said molecular sieve in a catalytic process.

104. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 103, wherein the shield is a template, carbonaceous material, anhydrous liquid or anhydrous gas.

105. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 104, wherein the shield is a template and the SAPO molecular sieve is stored in wet filter cake form.

106. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 103, wherein the SAPO molecular sieve, in its unshielded form, is maintained at a temperature of from 150 to 800°C.

107. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 106, wherein the SAPO molecular sieve, in its unshielded form, is maintained at a temperature of from 175 to 600°C.

108. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 107, wherein the SAPO molecular sieve, in its unshielded form, is maintained at a temperature of from 200 to 500°C.

109. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 103, wherein the SAPO molecular sieve, in its unshielded form, is maintained at a methanol uptake index that does not fall below 0.4.

110. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 109, wherein the SAPO molecular sieve, in its unshielded form, is maintained at a methanol uptake index that does not fall below 0.6.

111. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 110, wherein the SAPO molecular sieve, in its unshielded form, is maintained at a methanol uptake index that does not fall below 0.8.

112. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 103, wherein the SAPO molecular sieve comprises molecular sieve selected from the group consisting of SAPO-17, SAPO-18, SAPO-34, SAPO-35, SAPO-44, SAPO-47, SAPO-56, metal containing forms thereof, and mixtures thereof.

113. (Previously Presented) A method of maintaining catalytic activity of an activated SAPO molecular sieve, the method comprising:

(a) providing a SAPO molecular sieve, wherein the molecular sieve is protected from moisture by shielding catalytic sites within the molecular sieve;

(b) removing the shield to form an activated molecular sieve;

(c) loading the activated SAPO molecular sieve into a storage environment; and

(d) storing or transporting the activated SAPO molecular sieve in an anhydrous environment, and at a methanol uptake index that does not drop below 0.15 before use of said molecular sieve in a catalytic process.

114. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 113, wherein the shield is a template, carbonaceous material, anhydrous liquid or anhydrous gas.

115. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 114, wherein the shield is a template.

116. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 113, wherein the SAPO molecular sieve, in its unshielded form, is maintained at a temperature of from150 to 800°C.

117. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 116, wherein the SAPO molecular sieve, in its unshielded form, is maintained at a temperature of from 175 to 600°C.

118. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 117, wherein the SAPO molecular sieve, in its unshielded form, is maintained at a temperature of from 200 to 500°C.

119. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 113, wherein the SAPO molecular sieve, in its unshielded form, is maintained at a methanol uptake index that does not fall below 0.4.

120. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 119, wherein the SAPO molecular sieve, in its unshielded form, is maintained at a methanol uptake index that does not fall below 0.6.

121. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 120, wherein the SAPO molecular sieve, in its unshielded form, is maintained at a methanol uptake index that does not fall below 0.8.

122. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 113, wherein the SAPO molecular sieve comprises molecular sieve selected from the group consisting of SAPO-17, SAPO-18, SAPO-34, SAPO-35, SAPO-44, SAPO-47, SAPO-56, metal containing forms thereof, and mixtures thereof.

123. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 113, wherein the anhydrous environment is a gas blanket or a liquid blanket.

124. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 123, wherein the anhydrous environment is a gas blanket.

125. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 124, wherein the anhydrous gas blanket has less than 1.2 volume percent water.

126. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 125, wherein the anhydrous gas blanket has less than 0.2 volume percent water.

127. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 126, wherein the anhydrous gas blanket has less than 0.02 volume percent water.

128. - 129. (Canceled)

130. (Previously Presented) A method of maintaining catalytic activity of an activated SAPO molecular sieve, the method comprising:

(a) providing a SAPO molecular sieve having catalytic sites protected against loss of catalytic activity by covering with a shield;

(b) removing the shield; and

(c) storing and transporting as part of a production-to-use procedure or loading into a reactor system, the SAPO molecular sieve, in its unshielded form, in a hydrous environment at a methanol uptake index that does not fall below 0.15, before use of said activated molecular sieve in a catalytic process.

131. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 130, wherein the shield is a template, carbonaceous material, anhydrous liquid or anhydrous gas.

132. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 131, wherein the shield is a template and the SAPO molecular sieve is stored in wet filter cake form.

133. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 132, wherein the SAPO molecular sieve, in its unshielded form, does not fall below 0.4.

134. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 133, wherein the SAPO molecular sieve, in its unshielded form, does not fall below 0.6.

135. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 134, wherein the SAPO molecular sieve, in its unshielded form, does not fall below 0.8.